

## LECTURERS FROM FOREIGN LANDS

Large Sums Paid to Secure Them from Dicken's  
Day Down to That of Zangwill's.

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Maj. James B. Pond, whose name has become a household word through his association with nearly every famous person who has appeared upon the platform as lecturer, reader, reciter or musician, for the last 20 years, and who is himself a lecturer, pushed back his chair and thought a moment:

"From Dickens to Zangwill! Let us see. It was in November, 1867, that Charles Dickens made his second visit to America. It was then that I first heard him read. The reading took place in Tremont temple in Boston. I remember there were scenes from 'Domby & Son,' and from 'Dr. Marigold.' That was 32 years ago, but I have not forgotten it. His first reading in New York was given at Steinway hall. He read also in Philadelphia, Washington,



MRS. SCOTT-SIDDONS

Baltimore and other places, everywhere with immense success. He was a sensitive man, and a curious story is told in Mackenzie's 'Life of Dickens,' to the effect that he desired to cancel his Washington appearance because an

after his father's last visit, William Parsons, of Dublin, Ireland, appeared before American audiences delivering lectures upon biographical subjects. His venture was so successful that he came year after year; he never seemed



RICHARD LE GALLIENNE

to lose his hold. He was one of the great successes of the platform in those years.

"In 1873 Mrs. Scott-Siddons first visited the United States. You cannot imagine the sensation she created. No woman reader had ever been known on the platform before. There was a magic in the famous name of Siddons; it attracted hundreds and thousands to the readings. Mrs. Scott-Siddons was a young woman, just married; in the first flush of her wonderful beauty. She read well, but there were many others who could read better. It was her name and her beauty that drew. She made \$40,000 the first trip. I heard her in Burlington, Ia. In that city, then a town of no great size, the manager paid her \$500 for one reading. It was at this time that the first of the large photographs appeared in the shop windows. They were used to advertise Mrs. Scott-



MISS ANNIE GREY  
AND  
HER MOTHER

unfavorable criticism had been printed in a Philadelphia paper, and he feared it might herald an attack in Washington which in his condition of health he could not have endured. It is needless to say that his fears were overcome in part by the editor of the paper himself, that he appeared in Washington with unbounded success, and that there was no hard or unfriendly criticism in the papers.

"Of course, this was all before my active career as a manager of lecturers and readers began. I had, however, the pleasure of acting in that capacity for the son of the great novelist on the occasion of his visit to this country some few years ago. Charles Dickens, the younger, was, to my mind, a better reader than his father. He was indeed a very fine artist. His programmes were the same that his father had chosen from the novels. He appeared as a



CONAN DOYLE

reader some 200 times. An idea of his success can be obtained when I tell you that he took away with him at least \$10,000 in profits.

"Long before the younger Charles Dickens came over, about three years

Siddons. Her second visit to us was not so successful, yet she cleared from \$25,000 to \$30,000. All this money, or the bulk of it, which she had supposed to be safely invested by her husband, was lost in gambling. Mrs. Scott-Sid-



IAN MACLAREN

dons died three or four years ago in Europe. She had a good deal of experience as an actress, as well as a reader.

"About this time Charles Kingsley visited us. You remember, he was the author of 'Hypatia,' 'Westward Ho!' 'Alton Locke,' and verses that were set to music, making some of the best known songs of the day. Charles Kingsley intoned his lectures, as he did his services in Westminster abbey. His tour took him as far as California. It was a success in every way. Kingsley was here in 1873 and 1874.

"Rev. George Dawson, of Birmingham, England, came in 1874-75. He spoke only in small rooms, for his voice did not carry. In 1875 Wilkie Collins came. He was a failure. Just before him Charles Bradlaugh had been here and had made quite a success.

"In 1884-85 came Matthew Arnold. He was very popular. He could not be heard at all. He tried to remedy this by taking lessons in elocution of a teacher in Boston, named Marshall

Wilder, (not the Marshall P. Wilder of the present day). The lessons did not seem to do any good, he was less audible and more awkward. However, it did not matter. The people wanted to see him and they came whether they could hear him or not.

"It was during the season of 1885-86 that Sir Edwin Arnold, the author of the 'Light of Asia,' first came to these shores to read. He was a charming man. And here I may say that the greater and more successful the man, the simpler and easier to deal with, he usually appears. It is only among those who just miss success that the cranks are to be found. There are some who complain because I haven't made them rich—and myself, too—out of their lectures. I always say to these that 'the lecturer who is his chief thought is also his chief auditor.'

"Sir Edwin Arnold read at Daly's theater in New York. You can judge what the advance sale was when I tell you that \$3,000 had to be paid back at the box office when his readings were interrupted by illness.

"It was in 1886-87 that Max O'Rell first visited America. He came for



MRS. BALLINGTON BOOTH

three consecutive seasons. The first season he drew great crowds—so he did during his later visits—but the first realized the greatest profits. I believe his vocabulary was limited and that it was difficult for him to prepare new material. But his humor was pleasing, and he can be put down as one of the big drawing cards.

"But none of the imported humorists ever scored with Mark Twain, Bill Nye, James Whitcomb Riley and other of our own humorists.

"I should tell you, too, that Frederick Villiers came over with illustrated war lectures. He was a friend of Archibald Forbes, the famous war correspondent. Forbes himself came to America in 1878. He gave some lectures and went on to Australia. George



HENRY M. STANLEY

Augustus Sala also lectured here. B. L. Farjeon, the author of 'Bread and Cheese and Kisses,' and other novels that were thought at first to promise a genius like that of Dickens, came over about this time, but he was not well received.

"Then there was Henry M. Stanley, the African explorer. He came in 1890-91 to lecture. No man ever achieved a greater success. He opened in New York city to over \$17,000. He



Charles Dickens

delivered 110 lectures. The average receipts were \$2,750. No lecturer ever drew more money in a single season.

"Doyle came over in 1894-95. He delivered 35 lectures, and might have delivered many more to large audiences, but he had promised Mrs. Doyle, who was not well, that he would return to

England for Christmas, so he left in the middle of the season, carrying \$4,000 with him.

"In 1896 Rev. Dr. John Watson—Ian MacLaren, the author of 'The Bonnie Brier Bush' and other volumes—lectured here for nine weeks. He spoke 96 times—frequently twice a day, 15 times a week. He appeared seven times



SIR EDWIN ARNOLD

in New York, five of these appearances being at the Waldorf. Six thousand five hundred dollars was the sum paid to hear him there. More inquiries are made for him than for any other lecturer or reader. He read from his own stories beautifully, with a very pleasing voice and a manner that charmed the public wonderfully.

"Anthony Hope gave 60 readings in America, chiefly from the 'Dolly Dialogues' and the 'Prisoner of Zenda.' He made a great hit socially, but as the majority of the people were more familiar with his work in the form of



ISRAEL ZANGWILL

plays than books, he did not score as heavily as he should have done. The people who saw the 'Prisoner of Zenda' on the stage did not pay much attention to the name of the author on the programme. They never do. The people who go to the play seldom care much about the man who wrote it.

"This brings us to the present season, which is already notable for the distinguished personages who have appeared upon the platform in America for the first time.

"Richard Le Gallienne did not please so well. He is a strange man. He impressed those who heard his readings, but his eccentricity interfered with his success.

"I wish also, to say a few words of Mrs. Ballington Booth, who is not outside the subject, as she is an English woman and a lecturer. She is the



ANTHONY HOPE

ablest woman appearing on the platform in America—the most attractive. She has magnetism, fire, a high purpose, earnestness and deep sincerity. All of these are the definition of eloquence and success.

"Mr. Zangwill gives the people their money's worth. His lecture on the Ghetto is one of the most interesting I have heard, and I have heard a great many. His lecture on the Drama as a Fine Art has set people to thinking and talking. I have no hesitation in saying that Mr. Zangwill is one of the successes of the lecture platform in America.

"So we have come all the way from Dickens to Zangwill—a period of over 30 years—and have touched upon the principal celebrities who came from across the water to entertain or instruct the American people from the platform. There is one man yet whom I should mention—Rev. Dr. Joseph Parker, who came during the season of 1886-87, the year after Henry Ward Beecher died. Dr. Parker is the greatest pulpit orator living, but not the greatest preacher." PAUL KESTER.

## A BAD BREAK.

Mrs. Waggtung's Habit of Talking Gets Her into an Awkward Situation.

It was at a concert given by the children of the town and Mrs. Waggtung had fallen into friendly conversation with a woman sitting next to her. A bag of chocolates in the possession of Mrs. Waggtung and politely proffered to her new acquaintance made them friendlier and more loquacious than ever.

"Yes," Mrs. Waggtung said during the intermission, "I do hate to see parents overdress their children. I think that the simpler a child is dressed the better, and it is positively painful to me to see a little child overdressed. Of course, it makes the child self-conscious and takes away so much of the grace of childhood. One of my neighbors, of course I wouldn't mention her name, does show such poor taste dressing her little girls. She tricks them out in silks and satins and even puts showy jewelry on them!"

"How shocking!" "Yes, I think so too. It is simply painful to see them dressed for any public occasion. And I think that some of those children up there on the platform are so dreadfully dressed. What could possess any sane person to trick a child out as that little girl sitting at the end of the first row of little girls is dressed—the little girl in pink, with pink shoes, pink silk stockings, a pink satin sash and white and pink ribbons fluttering all over her! And she has on a string of gold beads and a little diamond bracelet. Of course, they are only imitation diamonds. Anyone can see that. But the idea of putting jewelry of any kind on a child like that! See how self-conscious the poor little thing is. I declare if it isn't simply criminal to dress a child like that, and the poor little creature's mother ought to be prosecuted, and I should tell her so!"

"You would, agh?" "Yes, I would! I—I—why—I hope—" "You have told her so, madam!" "Why—I—I—" "I'll let you know that that is my little girl you've been talking about so, and I can tell you that—" "I—I—excuse me. I see a friend of mine sitting over on the other side of the hall, and I must see her for a few minutes, excuse me, please."—N. Y. World.

## WE EAT TOO MUCH.

A Restricted Diet Is the Main Cure of All the Famous Spas and Health Resorts.

Of the many cures in vogue, and recognized from their records as worthy the name, nine-tenths of them depend upon reducing the diet for their effectiveness.

A widespread fad during the last few years has been the "no breakfast cure," and thousands of dyspeptics have gained health, the stout have grown thin and the thin have grown stout, all through lifting the burden from overtaxed digestions. An equally popular cure preceding this was "leaving off of the evening meal"—equally effective, of course, just as a "no midday meal cure" would be if it should be promulgated.

One of the most splendid cures for all ills in Europe is the grape cure, practiced in Germany; and it is said that anyone taking the treatment cures off the wear and tear of five years—actually renews himself by so much. The sanitariums where this treatment is given are beautifully and healthfully situated and comfortably appointed. The patient is given nothing but unfermented grape juice for a period of four weeks—beginning with a generous amount, decreased to a minimum allowance (as little as the system will bear without great weakening) and gradually increased to the first amount.

At all European spas and American springs where people are so benefited, what is the course? A restricted diet and a flooding of the system with pure water—resting and washing the system, in other words.

Animals, those not dominated by the habits and thought-atmosphere of man, do not overeat, and even domestic animals stop short in their nourishment when in any wise ill. A dog will bury food not immediately required; other animals leave off before or at repletion. Man alone will eat without hunger, solely to tickle his palate, being, indeed, the only gorging animal save (truth is merciless) the occupant of the sty.—Ellis Morris Kretschmar, in Woman's Home Companion.

## Boiled Egg Dressing.

Allow one egg to every two persons and boil for 20 minutes. Remove the shells at once and place the yolks in a deep dish, reserving the whites to be cut into dice and mixed with the meat. To the cooked yolks add one raw one if the number does not exceed ten, two if a greater number are used, and reduce the whole to a smooth paste with a wooden spoon, or, if preferred, an elastic-bladed knife, but never use steel after oil and vinegar are added. Add olive oil, little by little, stirring steadily all the time, until a sufficient quantity has been used; then season with salt, cayenne pepper, mustard and lemon juice to suit the taste. The foundation once made, more or less oil can be added as required; but, as a rule, six eggs call for one pint. Should the mixture curdle in the process of making, add a few drops of lemon juice and a little mustard and stir them well in, when it will once more become smooth, and oil can again be added until the full quantity has been used.—Boston Globe.

## He Agreed Fully.

Mrs. Higgins—What wretched taste that Mrs. Wilkes has! Mr. Higgins—Yes; I met her downtown this afternoon, and she was wearing that ugly old \$25 hat you thought you wanted.—Chicago Evening News.

## HUMOROUS.

"Your replies are very tart," said the young husband. Then he hastily added: "But they are not as tart as those that mother made."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Speaking of getting a tooth pulled," said the corned philosopher, "that is one instance where a man is bound to stay and see the thing out."—Indianapolis Journal.

Mrs. Wackum—"How did that naughty boy of yours hurt himself?" Mrs. Snapper—"That good little boy of yours hit him on the head with a brick."—Roxbury Gazette.

"Mamma," said Dot, "do all the rivers empty into the sea?" "Most of them, my dear." "Then why doesn't the sea run over; is it because there are lots of sponges in it?"—Golden Days.

"A baby," says Israel Zangwill, "is a joy to its mother, an heir to its father, a charge to its nurse, a seal to the clergyman who baptizes, a new biological specimen to the physician, a new customer to the shopkeeper and a nuisance to the neighbors."

"I'll give you a few pointers," yelled the enthusiastic politician, excitedly, to Grimes, who was arguing with him. "Cheese it," said Grimes, with a frightened look. "Don't say that again, for heaven's sake. If anybody heard you say that it would ruin me." "How would it?" asked the politician. "Because," said Grimes, "I'm a sausage maker."—Harlem Life.

A Fond Mother's Mistake.—"I shouldn't wonder," said Mrs. Cornwell, "if our boy wouldn't be of a great ship-sinker, ship-raiser and lecturer if he'd have had the chance." "Why, he hasn't any such talents," replied her husband. "I dunno. He's got the temperance for it. You jes' orter have seen the record he made when they was playin' kissin' games at the corn huskin'."—Washington Star.

Scene: The breakfast table of a West end boarding house.—Mr. Smithers—"Pass the salt, please." No notice is taken. Mr. Smithers (raising his voice)—"Pass the salt, please." His neighbors are absorbed in their conversation, and his request remains unheeded. Mr. Smithers—"Have you heard the latest scandal?" Everybody (eagerly)—"No; what is it?"—Mr. Smithers—"Pass the salt, please."—Golden Penny.

## A LAKE PILOT'S LEG.

How It Solved the Mystery of the Wreck of the Steam Propeller Susan E. Peck.

"We are never amazed when vessels go aground and are wrecked on Lake Erie during the gales that are common on that treacherous water, for we expect such things then," said a lake skipper, "but when one is grounded on a clear day and wrecked, on a course as clear as the day and in the hands of a pilot that knows the ground like a book, we naturally wonder a little and want to know the why and wherefore. Such was the case of the propeller Susan E. Peck, that went aground near Bar Point and was lost with a \$20,000 cargo.

"The captain of the Susan E. had sailed successfully hundreds of times between Point Pelee and Bar Point and in all kinds of weather, and this time he had a wheelman who was known from one end of the lake to the other as one of the most expert navigators in the lake business. He had been flying up a long time for the very good reason that owing to an accident to one of his legs that leg had to be amputated to save his life. The lost member was replaced by an artificial leg and then the pilot was ready to take his post at the wheel again. His first service after his misfortune was this trip of the Susan E. Peck, and he ran her aground.

"The puzzle to everybody was how it was possible for the propeller, handled by a man of such skill and experience, on a straight course only 40 miles long and with every sailing condition favorable, to leave her course. The pilot was the most puzzled and astounded person of all. He soon got another vessel, and this one he ran in such an erratic manner, but fortunately with no disastrous result, that he was compelled to give her up, and his usefulness as a pilot was gone. He and others went to investigating to see if they could discover what was wrong with his seamanship. After awhile they discovered what they believed was the trouble. In the pilot's artificial leg a great deal of steel had been used in the joints and other places. Sitting close to the binnacle, as he did while steering, this steel deranged the compass so that it threw the wheelman way off his reckoning and led to the wrong piloting that had wrecked the Susan E. Peck and endangered the other vessel that the wheelman navigated subsequently. This was what they argued, and to demonstrate the correctness of the theory the pilot took charge of a vessel without wearing his false leg. Everything worked to a charm. The mystery of the Susan E. Peck was solved and the pilot was restored to his old place in the confidence of Lake Erie skippers and vessel owners."—N. Y. Sun.

## China's Porcelain Art Declines.

During the last hundred years there has been a great decline in the art of porcelain manufacture in China. There are few choice specimens in the markets, and all that gets there is bought at high prices by American and English collectors. The so-called imperial manufacture, however, continues to produce choice specimens.—N. Y. Sun.

## Big Tree.

The largest tree in the eastern hemisphere, if not in the world, is a chestnut standing at the foot of Mount Aetna. The circumference of the main trunk at 60 feet from the ground is 212 feet.—Chicago Inter Ocean.